



METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
METRO-DADE FLAGLER BUILDING

BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICE
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M E M O

TO: All Building Officials in Miami-Dade County

FROM: Francisco J. Quintana, R.A.
Director

DATE: March 19, 2002

SUBJECT: Design Wind Pressure Factors

The current Florida Building Code provisions for wind load in the High Velocity Hurricane Zones, as it was intended, are, with small discrepancies, similar to the provisions of the 1994 South Florida Building Code. To attain these values, the value of K_d (wind directionality factor) equal to 0.85 was used while maintaining the $1/3$ allowable stress increase. ASCE 7-98 indicates that using $K_d = 0.85$ is only allowed when used in conjunction with loads combinations specified in ASCE 7-98 Sections 2.3 and 2.4. The wind load factors in these sections have been increased by 25%.

This office, in order to maintain similar wind load provisions as existed before March 1, 2002, recommends the use of $K_d = 0.85$ in conjunction with the $1/3$ allowable stress increase as permitted in Section 1621.1 of the Florida Building Code. It is expected that future national codes will eliminate the stress increase.

§1621.1 *For members carrying wind stresses only, and for combined stresses caused by wind and other loads, the allowable stresses and the allowable loads on connections may be increased 33-1/3 percent from the maximums set forth in this code for the materials used.*

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Jaime Eisen, P.E., Code Compliance Officer Structural of my staff at (305) 375-2901.

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